

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, January 9. 1706.

THE Attempts to fix the Charge of Tumults, Disorder and Rebellion on the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland*, are so open and scandalous, and yet at the same time so ignorant and inconsistent, that I cannot but be frequently interrupting the Reader with these things, and I do it on a double Account.

First to do Justice, and set things in a clear Light, that the People in *England* may not run away with unnecessary Conclusions, wrong and ill-grounded Prejudices, and consequently be prepossess'd against their Neighbours without Reason.

That there have been warm People and warm Proceedings in *Scotland*, I shall presently give you a better Authority than my own to acknowledge; but that these Proceedings are either own'd or encourag'd by the Church, as a *Body*, does not follow.

Who has been the Engines at the Bottom to inflame weak and misguided People to Extremes, I have all already made plain, and I am now with great Satisfaction to tell the World, the People themselves see thro' it, I dare say, you will find no more *Presbyterians* led by the Nose into a *Jacobite* Snare, and if the *Jacobite* Party expects any thing from Mess. *John Hepburn*, Mess. *Maclean* or *Crawford*, they will find themselves mistaken, those Gentlemen will be very far from doing their Business.

But this is not all, my second Reason for this Attempt, is to open the Eyes of those People in *England*, who are impos'd upon in the Accounts given of the People in *Scotland*, in order to terrifie us in *England* with the Apprehensions of such rooted Aversions, implacable Spirits, and irreconcilable Niceties

Niceties in the Kirk of Scotland to England, and to the Church of England; that they could never be taken off, and that they would on no Terms come into the Treaty with any Sincerity.

These and abundance such like, fill the Mouths of our clamouring People, and on this Score, I think, it belongs to a Peacemaker to allay and explain things, to cover Infirmitly, and discover Truth; and let all things receive their native Description, as what will best conduce to the clearing up the Judgments of the People in the main Points now before them.

And first they may therefore observe, that the Kirk or *Presbyterians* of Scotland in general are so far from approving the tumultuous Proceedings of some of their Brethren, that they have on all Occasions discountenanc'd and discourag'd them; and this is not only demonstrated by the Circular Letter of the Commission, but it appears, when some warm *Presbyteries* have been forward to break in upon the general Quiet by their Addresses, and misbehaved themselves to the Government in that particular, they have receiv'd all just Discouragements from others of their Neighbours.

I have once presented you with Calculations relating to the Number of the People in the Royal Burroughs, who address'd against the Union; and I thought, such a Representation of things would have convinc'd People in *England* of that vulgar Error, or Scandal rather, that all *Scotland* is against the Union; That Addresses have come from all Parts against the Union, that the Kirk opposes it with all their Might, and with a universal Cry are resolv'd to appear against it.

I shall, I hope, in a few Days, be able to unravel this malicious Clue, and prove the happy Negative however difficult, and to this purpose shall present you with an exact List of all the particular Parts of *Scotland*, and the particular *Presbyteries*, *Parishes* and *Burghs*, who have join'd in these Addresses, and in insulting, mobbing and commanding the Parliament; and if on the Scale of Proportions, they appear a mean and most contemptible few, I mean as to Number, for I call no Man contemptible

as to Person—But I say as to Number, and that 'tis so far from a general Application of the whole Nation against the Union, that the other silent Majority ought effectually to quicken and encourage the Parliaments of both People to go on with it: If all this, I say, appear; I hope, the Clamours of those People will be stop'd, who cry out, you are cramming a Union down their Throats, and forcing the *Scots* Kirk to a Union with *Episcopacy*.

But before I come to this, and while I am perfecting this Scheme, give me leave to open the Eyes of some of our misguided People, who are poss'd with a Belief of the *Presbyterian* Clergy being against the Union, and preaching and praying against it in their Pulpits, by repeating to them a Part of a Sermon preach'd the 22^d. of *December* in the new Kirk at *Edinburgh*, by an honest plain Country Minister, one Mr. *Burnet* Minister of *Falkirk*, and a Member of the Commission, appointed by them to preach; and take this along with you, that this good Man lives in the middle of the Country, where all the Tumults and violent Doings have been.

The Minister was expounding before Sermon according to the Custom of the Place, and the Chapter for the Day was . . . *Nehemiah*, where he speaks of making an Address for his Protection against those that disturb'd his Work.

And from this Expression took Occasion to enter upon the Subject of the Union, to this Effect.

First, he told them very bluntly, that when he was at home in his own Parish, and was desir'd by some of the People to preach about the Union, he answer'd from the Pulpit, that the Business of a Minister of the Gospel was to preach up the Union between Christ and Believers, and that that was the Work they were to expect from him; but as for the Union between the TWO KINGDOMS he knew no better Way we could be satisfied about it, than to refer it to the Wisdom of the supreme Court of Parliament, and to pray to GOD to direct them. And if I had said any other thing about it, *says he*, I should but have discover'd my own Folly.

Having

Having made this Introduction, he goes on thus,

Observing *Nebemiah* addressing humbly to the King of *Persia*, he says, I always understood it to be Tyranny in Princes to hinder their Free Subjects from addressing them; but when Addresses are to be made, they ought to be made in all humble Manner, in Respect to the Authority of Government. But I cannot but say, *says he*, that I have seen some of the Addresses made to this Parliament, which bear in the Frontispiece the Words of an HUMBLE PETITION; but when I consider the Matter of them, I think, the Title should have been a *bold Declaration in Opposition to Authority*.

That it look'd very unlike the Humility of Addresser, to come to address a Government with Sword in Hand.

That those People, who took such irregular Courses, thought very *mickle* of themselves, and that they had very much Wit, who would take Means for the Advancement of the Glory of GOD, which GOD himself had not appointed, as if GOD had not Wisdom and Power to bring to pass his own Work; and that this was doing so, was evident, since the Wrath of Man cannot work the Righteousness of GOD.

I do not say, that this Discourse pleas'd all that heard it, some being present, who had had too great a Hand in the tumultuous and disrespectful Addresses from several Parts of the Kingdom. But the good Man was resolv'd to be plain with them, and therefore when he came to his Sermon, he gave them a second Part as effectual as the other.

He told them, it was not his Choice to preach here, but he was appointed by his Brethren, but since it was his Lot, he would discharge his Conscience without Regard to pleasing or displeasing any body: That what he was now to say, he thought his Duty to justify the Principles of this Church.

There is a Party, *says he*, in *Scotland*, of whom it may be said, that all their Religion in the late Times before the Revolution consisted in their Loyalty.

We own, that Loyalty is a Part of Religion, but is far from being the whole of

Religion; and now that Party having lost their Loyalty, which was before their Religion, can have very little left.

As for those of our Way, tho' we were branded in the late Times with being seditious, and had not then an Opportunity to vindicate our selves; now evidently make it appear, that that Charge was false and slanderous, in that we not only submit to Authority, but bless GOD, that we enjoy the Freedom of our Religion by the Protection of a just Government.

And from this Principle it is, that we own the QUEEN and her Authority, and we bless GOD for her Majesty, and heartily acknowledge Her to be QUEEN, not only *de Facto*, but *de Jure*.

This short Abridgment taken from the Mouth of a Minister in a *Presbyterian* Pulpit, I could not but think needful at this Time to convince some People, that all *Presbyterians* are not Preachers of Sedition; and if need be, can every Week furnish them with Examples to the like Purposes; but more of that hereafter.

W Hereas a malicious Report has been spread about, that the Author of the REVIEW being in *Scotland*, the REVIEW is not perform'd by the same Person, as usual—Which Report is carefully banded about to lessen the Reputation and Value of the said Paper.

This is, First, to assure the World, that no Person whatever has or ever had any Concern in writing the said Paper Entitled the REVIEW—That wherever the Author may be, the Papers are wrote with his own Hand, and the Originals may be seen at the Printers.

Secondly, the Judgment of the Gentlemen, that spread this Report, must be very good; that can neither guess at the Style, nor guess by the Story or Manner of it both, whether it be the Author's, and where the Author is.

Monday next will be Publish'd.

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